GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4320
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2017
Regulating e-Pharmacies
Bala Smt. Anju;Mondal Shri Sunil Kumar;Sreeramulu Shri B.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is going to set up e-portal to regulate online sale of drugs and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to stop the advertisement and sale of drugs online and on television and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government formulated a sub-committee to examine the issue of regulating sale of drugs (medicine) over internet under the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether his Ministry has issued a public notice for public consultation regarding regulation of sale of drugs in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government to regulate e-pharmacies in the country?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a): A Sub-Committee had been constituted by the Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) to examine issues relating to online sale of drugs. The Sub-Committee has submitted its report to the Drugs Consultative Committee. The Sub-Committee has inter alia recommended creation of a National Portal to act as the nodal platform for transacting and monitoring online sale of drugs.

The Government has issued a notice seeking public comments on regulation of sale of drugs including introduction of an electronic platform for regulation of sale of drugs in the country.

(b): As per existing regulatory framework, all advertisements telecast on private satellite TV channels and transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable TV network are required to adhere to the Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 framed thereunder. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of any advertisement telecast on such TV channels. However, it prescribes that all advertisements telecast on such TV channels should be in conformity with the aforesaid Advertising Code which contains a whole range of parameters to regulate advertisements on TV channels. Appropriate action is taken against TV channels whenever any violation of the said code is established.

(c) & (d): As at (a) above.

(e): Online pharmacy continues to be regulated as per provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 as amended from time to time.